

Diocese of Scranton News Briefing



www.dioceseofscranton.org Vol. 15 #2 1/24/2019



MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.

In union with our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

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Diocese Launches Independent Survivors Compensation Program

The Diocese of Scranton on January 22 launched its Independent Survivors Compensation Program, an independent program designed to compensate survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Participation in the Program by survivors is entirely voluntary and the Program is run completely independent of the Diocese.

"Our first priorities are to provide support for survivors of child sexual abuse and to take every step necessary to eradicate abuse from the Church altogether," said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera. "This Program helps. While no financial compensation can change the past, it is my hope that this Program will help survivors in their healing and recovery process."

The Diocese's program includes all victims, whether the abuser was a priest from the Diocese of Scranton, from a religious order, or was a lay employee of the Diocese. The Diocese [announced](#) on November 8, 2018 that the Program would be administered by Kenneth Feinberg and Camille Biros, two leading experts in mediation and alternative dispute resolution who have overseen similar programs started by five Catholic Dioceses in New York. Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Biros will have absolute autonomy in determining compensation for survivors, and the Diocese of Scranton has agreed to abide by all of their decisions.

"Ken and I know how important it is to assist victims who have endured a personal tragedy," said Biros. "We have worked with survivors of sexual abuse and other tragedies and we have developed a system that operates with one person in mind - the victim. Often, survivors are most concerned with having their abuse acknowledged by the Church so they can begin to heal, and this compensation program will help them do just that."

Program administrators will reach out directly to those who have previously reported a claim of abuse to the Diocese of Scranton. Survivors who have not yet reported past abuse are also eligible to participate and can request a claim form online after reporting the abuse in writing to the District Attorney's Office. New claims must be registered with the Program by July 22, 2019, while existing claims can be submitted until September 30, 2019. Administrators will process claims in the order in which they are received, and payments will be made on a rolling basis as claims are processed.

An Independent Oversight Committee comprised of three individuals with relevant experience across healthcare, law enforcement and social work will supervise the Program. The Committee members are:

- Robert Gillespie, Jr., the former District Attorney for Luzerne County
- Ralph H. Meyer, President and Chief Executive Officer Emeritus with Guthrie Healthcare System, who has spent his entire career in healthcare administration
- Robin Engels, LCSW, a licensed clinical social worker in private practice who provides counseling and therapy for individuals and families, regarding issues of anxiety, depression, caregiving, substance abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder. She recently retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Middletown Vet Center where her work focused on the treatment of Veterans who served in combat zones and their families.

The Oversight Committee will oversee and periodically review the implementation and administration of the Program. The Committee will also report to the Diocese as to the implementation and administration of the Program.

Parish and school assets, as well as contributions and bequests from parishioners and donations to the Diocesan Annual Appeal will not be used to fund the program. Rather, the Program will be funded by existing Diocesan assets and available reserves. If necessary, the Diocese will sell assets and borrow money.

This Program is one of the many steps the Diocese has taken to assist survivors of abuse. Survivors can continue to receive assistance from the Diocese including counseling or spiritual direction and referrals to support groups. The Diocese strictly adheres to a zero tolerance policy and immediately notifies law enforcement, the District Attorney and child protective services when abuse is reported. When the allegation appears credible, the Diocese removes the priest from ministry pending an investigation. The Diocese fully cooperates with law enforcement for any necessary investigation.

For more information about the Diocese of Scranton's Independent Survivors Compensation Program, please visit www.ScrantonDioceseISCP.com.



Pilgrims in Panama

Ten young adults are representing the Diocese of Scranton at World Youth Day in Panama, which concludes this Sunday, January 27. They are joining with Pope Francis and an estimated 150-200,000 pilgrims from over 150 countries around the world, representing the five continents. Please pray that they have a safe and inspiring experience, and return home to offer even greater witness to the faith.

Pilgrim Prayer

Merciful Father,

You call us to live our lives as a way of salvation. Help us to recall the past with gratitude, to embrace the present with courage and to build the future with hope.

Lord Jesus, our friend and brother, thank you for looking upon us with love. Let us listen to your voice as it resonates in the hearts of each one with the strength and light of the Holy Spirit.

Grant us the grace of being a Church that goes forth with vibrant faith and a youthful face to communicate the joy of the Gospel. May we help to build up the kind of society we long for, one where there is fairness and fellowship.

We pray for the Pope and the bishops; for young people; for all those who will take part in World Youth Day in Panama and for those who are preparing to welcome them.

Our Lady of Antigua, Patroness of Panama, help us to pray and live with generosity like yours: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (*Lk 1:38*).

Amen



February XLT

*Eucharistic Adoration - Speaker - Praise & Worship Music - Reconciliation
- Social*

Monday, February 4, 6:30-8:30 PM

Saint John Neumann Parish, 633 Orchard Street, Scranton

For more information, visit vocations.dioceseofscranton.org or call 570-780-2996.

World Day of the Sick on February 11

The World Day of the Sick offers us an opportunity to draw particularly close to people who are ill, and to those who care for them. This was expressed by Pope Francis in his message for this year's observance. The Holy Father noted: "Caring for the sick requires professionalism, tenderness, straightforward and simple gestures freely given, like a caress that makes others feel loved."

The Diocese of Scranton will observe the 27th World Day of the Sick on Monday, February 11, 2019. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate a Mass for the Sick at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. During the Mass there will be a celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for anyone acutely or chronically ill, anyone suffering a debilitating condition, anyone facing surgery, the elderly, and all who might be a candidate for this sacrament. All are welcome. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass live.

Each parish in the Diocese is also encouraged to schedule a similar celebration either on February 11 or another convenient day near it. Information and resources to help plan a liturgical celebration have been provided to each parish by the Office for Parish Life through the Diocesan website at www.dioceseofscranton.org (see Parish Life menu tab, then World Day of the Sick.) The website also contains information about the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday

The Diocese of Scranton is celebrating Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday with a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, February 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant and homilist. The Mass will be sign-language interpreted for the hearing impaired.

This liturgy prayerfully celebrates the many gifts those with developmental or intellectual disabilities bring to the Church and the community. Partners in this celebration include Saint Joseph's Center in Scranton, the Diocesan SPRED community (Special Religious Education) and the Catholic Deaf Community of the Diocese of Scranton.

All are welcome. CTV: Catholic Television will also broadcast the Mass.

Office for Parish Life

***Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Accepting
Applications for January 2019***

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider **application for the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* for January 2019!**

The *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* is a ministry formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving their parish in areas such as:

- Parish Pastoral Councils,
- Directors of Religious Education and Catechists,
- Liturgical Coordinators,
- Parish Staff,
- Volunteer Ministry teams,
- and others!

Through independent online study with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), as well as regional skills workshops and opportunities for prayer and reflection, *Diocesan Certificate* candidates enrich their knowledge base, while also learning practical tools for effective parish ministry in their faith communities.

The Office for Parish Life anticipates welcoming new candidates into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program in the New Year.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation, at 570-207-2213, or by email at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org for application information, materials, and application submissions.

DRE/Youth Minister Network Meetings/January 2019

The 2019 January DRE/Youth Minister Network Meetings will focus on Confirmation in 2019. Members of the Office for Parish Life team will be on hand to discuss:

- Diocesan-wide Confirmation Liturgies to be held on Pentecost Sunday, June 9
- Transition from Confirmation preparation to Youth Ministry
- Current issues in Safe Environment
- Upcoming formation opportunities for DREs and Youth Ministers including a retreat in April and Catechist Camp in August

Every parish should be represented, so we invite each DRE and Youth Minister or another parish catechetical representative to one of the following Network Meetings. Please choose one of these dates/locations and plan to join other parish DREs and YMs for an evening of prayer, fellowship, formation and information.

Each meeting will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 24-St. Matthew Parish
78 Ridgeway Street, East Stroudsburg 18301

Monday, January 28-SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish
(please note the change in location)
604 N. Laurel Street, Hazleton 18201

Tuesday, January 29-Resurrection Parish

75 Musser Lane, Muncy 17756

R.S.V.P. to Mary Anne Malone (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100 or mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org

Disability Ministries

In the coming months, the Diocese of Scranton will be hosting Open House opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families. We want to learn more about your experiences and see how we can develop ministries to welcome all members of our parish communities.

If your parish is interested in hosting one of these sessions, or would like to offer any suggestions on the development of these ministries here in the Diocese of Scranton, please contact Katy Windels at Katy-Windels@dioceseofscranton.org.

Senior Isolation Workshop

The Scranton Area Ministerium will host a Senior Isolation Workshop at the Diocesan Pastoral Center on Saturday, March 30, from 10 AM to 1 PM. The morning will begin with a presentation from Prof. Jim Siberski of Misericordia University addressing the challenge of senior isolation in our communities. Lunch will be provided with an opportunity for fellowship and discussion of pastoral solutions.

We encourage any community member to attend this event. All pastors, youth ministers, and advocates of any faith tradition who are interested in combatting this serious challenge in our communities are welcome.

Theology on Tap

The next Diocesan Theology on Tap event will be held on Tuesday, February 29, from 7-9 PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Emma Gallagher, Associate Campus Minister at King's College, will speak on the topic of "New Year, New Me: Creating Healthy Resolutions and Healthy Expectations." All young adults ages 21-40 are welcome to attend. There will be a suggested donation of \$7 to cover food and soft drinks. Contact Katy Windels or Shannon Kowalski for more information.

Postcard Campaign

The Diocese of Scranton is hosting a postcard campaign for to represent out Pro-Life values! Please consider signing a postcard at your parish to support the protection of life from conception until natural death. Parishes should return the postcards to the Office for Parish Life by the end of the month so that the postcards will be delivered to our national legislators during the month of February. Especially during this important month for Respect Life, we thank you for your personal advocacy efforts on these issues!

Couples Invited To Participate In Wedding Anniversary Celebration

On June 30, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the Wedding Anniversary Mass at 2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, for couples celebrating their 25th or 50th year of marriage in 2019. This is an occasion to recognize the role married couples play in the Church's mission to bring God's faithful love into the world. Couples will have the opportunity to renew their commitment to marriage and to receive a blessing on their marriage from the Bishop. A reception will follow in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, where anniversary couples will be able to have their picture taken with the Bishop. Eligible couples should give their names and an April mailing address to their parish office before April 2. Parish lists are due to the Office for Parish Life by April 9.

***Have you attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend?
Would you like to gather with other WWME alumni in a
small group sharing community?***

Would you like to extend an invitation for others to join a current WWME Share Group?

There is a new WWME Share Group being hosted by John and Joanie Walsh of St. Lucy's Parish. If your spouse and you have attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, gathering with a WWME Share Group could be a great way to extend the benefits of the Weekend for your marriage. If you would like to attend this gathering in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area, please contact John or Joanie at (719) 339-9970, joaniewalsh528@hotmail.com.

If you are already involved with a WWME Share Group in the Diocese of Scranton, and would like your group to be listed on our Marriage Support webpage so that others might join you, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director of Community and Family Development, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org

Living Your Strengths Workshops Coming Soon!

Do you envision a parish community in which every member is valued for his or her unique gifts and talents? Could your parish benefit from having parishioners serve in ways they enjoy and in which they can do a great job? Would you like to see parishioner engagement move from a "slots to fill" approach into a strengths-based ministry approach?

When parish members serve in the ministries that are well-suited to their God-given unique strengths and abilities, a dramatic shift in parishioner engagement can occur. In order to help facilitate strengths-based parishioner engagement, the Office for Parish Life will be offering Living Your Strengths Workshops beginning in early 2019. These workshops can help your parishioners identify their unique strengths, and explore the ways in which those strengths can be used to best serve the parish community. A workshop can also serve to help your ministry teams learn how the strengths of each team member can complement and enhance the strengths of those with whom they serve. This knowledge can lead to greater understanding, appreciation, and productivity within ministry teams.

To learn more about Living Your Strengths Workshops, or to schedule a workshop for your parish group, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY: February 10, 2019

World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

Consider planning a parish celebration, or a special date night with your spouse, to celebrate this important occasion. It falls conveniently close to the Feast of St. Valentine! For ideas about how to celebrate as a parish community, follow this link:

<http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/World-Marriage-Sunday-2-10-19-1.pdf>

For other ideas for parishes or couples, contact Jennifer Housel, Office for Parish Life, Director for Community & Family Development, 570-207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org

Looking to Have a Workshop for Your Liturgical Ministers?

Are your cantors or choir members in need of training on the basics of the ministry? Could your lectors or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion use a "refresher" course or a day of reflection? Board Members of the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians are here to help and are willing to travel to provide a workshop or session for your parish ministers. Some potential topics include:

- **Choir Basics: Making the Most of Out of What You've Got**
- **The Body of Christ: Our Identity and Purpose**
- **Fostering Sung Prayer: Synchronizing the Organist, Cantor, Choir and Assembly**
- **Not Just a Pretty Voice: The Cantor as a Leader of Prayer**

Please contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 or at David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org to discuss how we can help address your parish's needs.

Prayer Resources for Those Suffering from Addiction

The Diocese of Erie is providing a variety of resources for parishes and individuals to help pray for those suffering from addictions. Although designed with the opioid crisis in mind, these resources could also be helpful for those suffering from other addictions as well, including alcoholism and gambling. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/opioid.html> to access the prayer services on the Diocese of Erie website, or visit <https://store.faithcatholic.com/meditations-and-prayers> to order a booklet of Catholic prayers for family members whose loved ones are suffering from addiction.

Echoes of Faith

Do you want to know more about your faith? Are you a catechist or DRE who is looking for a way to earn a certificate in catechesis? Can you spare an hour a week? The Echoes of Faith 3.0 is for YOU!

Created by the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) and published by RCL Benziger, *Echoes of Faith* is an online education program offering basic adult formation in the Catholic Faith.

With fourteen modules divided into three categories, the Echoes of Faith Learning Center can be used for parish Adult Faith Formation and for Basic Catechist Certification. It is also one way to complete the prerequisites for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry.

Contact Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org for information on how to get started for an affordable \$15 a year.

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training

The Office for Parish Life will offer an all-day training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on **Saturday, January 26, from 9:00AM to 2:30PM** at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton.

Candidates for the training should have the approval of his or her pastor/parish life coordinator. There is no fee for the training and lunch will be provided. To register, please fill out the [EMHC Training Registration Form](#) or call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 and be sure to include your mailing address, phone number and the name of your parish.

Resources for Atonement and Healing

Resources for ongoing prayer for atonement and healing for victims of sexual abuse in our Diocese, including a sample rosary with reflections on the Sorrowful Mysteries, sample intercessions and prayers can be found on the [diocesan website](#). The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has also provided a resource which can be found on its website, <https://fdlc.org/> under 'resources.'

Scranton NPM 2019 Events

Mark your 2019 calendars now and plan on attending the upcoming spiritual and informative events of the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Here is a listing of what's in store:
 ☿ **Evening of Reflection on Lent** -Tuesday, March 12 at 6:00PM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Swoyersville
 ☿ **Cathedral Art, Music & Architecture Tour** -Monday, May 13 at 6:00PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton

¢ **42nd Annual NPM Convention**-July 16-19 in Raleigh, NC
¢ **Resources for Selecting Liturgical Music**-Monday, September 16 at 6:00PM at St. John Neumann Parish (Holy Name site), Scranton
¢ **Creating Effective Worship Aids**-Tuesday, November 12 at 6:00PM at Holy Name of Jesus, West Hazleton
For more information about any of these events or to download the 2019 Scranton NPM Events flyer, visit <https://scrantonnpm.com/>

Advocacy Team

The Diocesan Advocacy Team met for the first time in late November. The team is dedicated to serving the Church by promoting values of Catholic Social Teaching on a local, state, and national level. If you are interested in advocacy (from letter-writing to in-person lobbying) please consider signing up for our listserv. Contact Katy Windels at Katy-Windels@dioceseofscranton.org for more information.

Save the Date: Intercultural Music Ministry Workshop

Mark your calendars now and invite your music directors, instrumentalists, cantors and choir members to join us for an **Intercultural Music Ministry Workshop on Saturday, March 30 at St. Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre**. Damaris Thillet, Associate Director of Worship & Christian Initiation for the Diocese of Camden, Director of Liturgy and Music at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Camden, will be leading the day-long workshop that will focus on the liturgical formation of music ministers serving in parishes with Hispanic and Latino populations. More details to come!

Rite of Election

The **Rite of Election will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera on Sunday, March 10 at 2:30PM**. RCIA Coordinator Information and Enrollment forms will be available after January 15, 2019 on the diocesan website under [Christian Initiation Resources](#). Parishes with new RCIA Coordinators are asked to contact Nancy Valtos at the Office for Parish Life and provide their new contact information.

Mark Your Calendar

For a listing of Diocesan and parish events, go to: [Calendar](#)

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www.facebook.com/DoS150/

www.twitter.com/BishopBambera

www.twitter.com/DioceseOfScr

www.facebook.com/DioceseOfScranton

You are also encouraged to visit the Facebook pages of other Diocesan departments. They are listed on our website at:

<http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/media/social-media/>

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